

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture has sent notices about the March 10 ALB public information session in Rahway to the owners of all properties within a quarter mile radius of an infested tree that sparked the recent expansion of the quarantine zone.

The meeting, set for 7 p.m. at the Rahway City Library, is also being posted on the city's official web site and on the local cable TV station. *Star-Ledger* reporter Gabe Gluck has contacted the NJDA to say he plans to attend the meeting and bring a photographer. The meeting will focus on the expansion of the quarantine zone and the need to remove 1,400 more trees in Rahway to ensure eradication.

As of March 3, 1,798 trees have been removed from the Middlesex/Union counties ALB infestation site. Of those, 482 were infested host trees and 1,316 were high-risk exposed host trees. Crews continued to work this week in the residential areas of Carteret.

Currently, 11 program personnel from USDA APHIS PPQ, NJDA and NJ Forest Service are performing survey, control and regulatory activities. Seven program personnel continue to perform survey and regulatory activities in the Jersey City Quarantine Area.

To date, the Union County Resource Recovery Facility in Rahway, operated by Covanta Union, Inc., has accepted and burned 977.4 tons of wood chips generated by the tree removals in the Middlesex/Union counties ALB infestation site. In support of the ALB Program, the Union County Resource Recovery Facility will continue to accept and burn wood chips generated by the ALB tree-cutting for the duration of the program, converting the wood chips into electricity.

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture has awarded a contract to Bartlett Tree Expert Company for 12 tree climbers to work during the month of March inspecting trees in the Middlesex/Union counties ALB infestation site.

Carl Schulze, NJDA's Director of the Division of Plant Industry, provided an ALB presentation to approximately 150 landscape contractors at the 28th Annual NJ Landscape Contractors Association Trade Show & Conference at the Meadowlands Expo Center in Secaucus, NJ on Thursday, March 3. A number of the contractors present work in the northeastern and central areas of New Jersey.

Barry Emens, USDA-APHIS NJ ALB Director conducted a phone interview with Susan Abrams, a reporter with the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, on the Carteret tree removal operations. This article will be paired with an article about Emerald Ash Borer and will be published at a future date.

Program personnel will remain on-site during the tree removal process to address concerns from homeowners and to ensure operations continue to run smoothly.